GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1181
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Communication Safety and e-Mail Policy
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication and correspondence between various Government officials and the various Government departments have been hacked by unscrupulous private individuals hurting public interest and leading to scam like situations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the government in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry has notified any e-mail policy for the public servants in the government service;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that the confidentiality of the communicated information is maintained at all costs?

Answer

(a): There have been no instances of hacking leading to scam like situations.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) and (d): Ministry has notified "Email policy of Government of India" in the Gazette of India, on 18.02.2015 to ensure secure email communication in Government. The policy clearly mentions that only Government provided email services shall be used for official communications. The e-mail services provided by other service providers shall not be used for any official communication. This policy is applicable to all employees of Government of India (GoI) and employees of those State/UT Governments that use the e-mail services of GoI.

(e): As per e-mail policy, any mail identified as classified or sensitive should be sent using a DSC (Digital Signature Certificate). Further, all data transmission, from source to destination, within the Government email server is over encrypted channels like TLS (transport layer security) /SSL (secure socket layer) and secure ports.

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